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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to ask you to please NOT take away access to unbundled network elements like last-mile copper and inter-city fiber. I have been getting my broadband internet and phone service through a local competitor (Sonic) for several years now, primarily because I was fed up with AT&T's deceptive policies and pricing. When I first signed up for AT&T U-verse internet service, they provided the option of purchasing my own modem and router, which I did. Then, one day my internet service just didn't work, and it turned out that AT&T had decided, without notifying me, that customers could no longer use their own equipment, they HAD to pay a recurring monthly fee to rent their modems from AT&T. I think I was even going to have to pay an installation fee just to plug in their modem rather than my own. I was furious, both because they didn't even tell me, they just turned off my internet connection, and because there is no technical reason at all to not let customers use their own hardware. The only reason they made this change was to make more money.

I am totally against allowing huge corporations to gain monopoly status over providing internet service. I actually used to work for Pacific Telephone, and I lived through the breakup of the old Bell system. While I think deregulating the U.S. phone system did create some problems for service quality, I think the breakup eventually helped consumers because competition forces providers to maintain reasonable fees. Another example of a monopoly gone wild is Comcast being the single provider of cable TV service in my area--they just kept raising the price of service, year after year, and I had no options except to pay their outrageous fees or quit cable. So I quit cable.

I like having options for competitive telephone and internet service. I prefer Sonic over AT&T because they have not raised their price for all the years I've used them, their service includes a landline phone, AND their customer service is significantly better than AT&T's (talking to AT&T on the phone is a total nightmare). I am 100% against allowing AT&T and U.S. Telecom to disallow local competitors to use the network infrastructure. I am a relatively low-income person without a full-time regular job, and using the internet is critical to my life.

Please do not allow AT&T to muscle competitors out of the broadband business. Competition stimulates network growth (with faster and better service) and keeps internet access affordable for

many people. Please implement policies that help the little guy consumers, not the big, greedy corporations. They have already been given unfair advantage through tax breaks (which only benefits the already wealthy who can afford to invest in the stock market). Please take action that helps decrease income inequality in this country, not just make it worse and worse.

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